

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: THE HISTORY OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **4013LAWCJ** (120646)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2015

Owning School/Faculty: Law  
Teaching School/Faculty: Law

Team	Leader
Kate Bates	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ4      **Credit Value:** 24.00      **Total Delivered Hours:** 24.00

**Total Learning Hours:** 240      **Private Study:** 216

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22.000

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	CW	1800-2000 word	40.0	
Exam	Exam	2 hour exam	40.0	2.00
Presentation	Pres	Group presentation	20.0	

### Aims

*This module provides an introduction to the history of crime and crime control. It aims to provide the historical background that is essential for an understanding of contemporary criminal justice, and examines the historical context for current criminological debates. The module encourages students to begin to think critically about the history of crime and criminal justice and provides an introduction to historical sources and methodology, as well as an analysis of the background to contemporary debates. It aims to investigate the social and historical contexts of*

*crime and criminal justice and explain how changes in society, over various historical periods, have moulded the criminal justice system of the time. More specifically, it will relate the changes in crime, criminality and criminal justice to the larger social, legal, economic and cultural changes which resulted from industrialization, capitalization and urbanization in the 18th and 19th centuries. In addition, it aims to demonstrate the transformation and convergence of criminal justice systems during these two crucial centuries. As well as charting the changing definitions of crime, order and justice, this module aims to demonstrate how changes in criminal law and penal practice were related to the changing values of society and to illuminate society's wider attitudes and fears about criminal behaviour and the way in which these influenced the law and legal system over time. It will trace the development of the western system of prisons, police organisations, administrative and legal hierarchies of social control and chart the changing practice of punishment in Western society and the origins and development of policing. Finally, this module aims to explore a number of historiographical debates which have arisen in the interpretation of criminal justice history and to distill the current state of historical scholarship regarding crime and its social control.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- LO1 Evidence an awareness of the changing nature and extent of crime and criminality
- LO2 Demonstrate a clear understanding of the social, legal and economic factors that have affected crime and criminal justice in historical society
- LO3 Reveal criminal discourses in popular culture and how this reflected contemporary attitudes to crime and punishment
- LO4 Identify the main historical changes with regards to the purposes and practices of punishment
- LO5 Explain the historical development of the police and policing

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Coursework	LO1	LO2			
Exam	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5
Group Presentation	LO3				

## **Outline Syllabus**

### *The History of Murder*

- *the murder of women, men and children*
- *the changing face of homicide*
- *the transformation of murder from a private to public concern*
- *the ever-decreasing decline of homicide*
- *the practice and public perception of domestic murder and infanticide*

### *Crimes of Violence*

- *a comparative view of how different social classes practiced and reacted to violence*
- *domestic violence in Victorian London*
- *the changing face of violence*
- *the violent realities of street life in the past*
- *a history of respectable fears -making sense of the law and order myth of a golden age of peace and stability*
- *intimate violence – changing perceptions of rape and sexual assault*
- *violence and disorder in the 18th and 19th centuries*

### *The London Underworld: Beggars, Thieves and Prostitutes*

- *criminality, deviance and the underworld*
- *the emergence of a criminal class*
- *the invention of juvenile delinquency in the 19th c*
- *hard men and street violence*
- *the emergence of prostitution as a social problem in the 19th c*
- *the impact of drink and poverty on crime and criminalisation*

### *Crime, Law and the Courts*

- *legal practice from feudal to modern and legal pluralism to state law*
- *the criminalisation of customary practices and rights*
- *crime custom and popular legitimacy*
- *the rise and ideology of property law*
- *judicial terror and the 'bloody' code*
- *the role of deference and authority and its impact on sentencing practices*
- *the participation of ordinary people as jurors, prosecutors, victims and witnesses*
- *the use of law against civil disobedience and the control of rioting and mobs*
- *the law court as theater and counter-theater*

### *Crime and the Industrial Revolution*

- *the rise of capitalism and its impact on crime and criminalisation*
- *the role of poverty, migration and urbanization on crime and its control*
- *class, crisis and reform*
- *changing concepts of social control*
- *changing notions of order and justice from citizen to state*
- *changing constructions of criminality and crime*
- *the moralizing of the poor and criminal classes*
- *changing criminal conceptions of morality and shame*
- *state formation and the monopolization of power*

### *The History of the Prison and Penal Policy*

- *prison before the prison: ancient and medieval practice*
- *changes in penal policy from community to legal sanction*
- *aspects and realities of prison life*
- *the emergence of prisons for women and children*
- *the role and impact of penal reformers*
- *the decline and renaissance of shame in modern penal systems*
- *the rise and ideological origins of the modern penitentiary*
- *the role and ideology of penal rehabilitation*
- *the changing politics of penal reform*
- *the changing nature of incarceration and decarceration*
- *the rise and decline of penal transportation*

### *The History of Punishment*

- *punishments of the body and mind*
- *the use of corporal and public punishments*
- *the change from medieval to modern punishment practice*
- *the use and impact of shaming punishments*
- *punishments before penal servitude*
- *the dramaturgy of state executions*
- *the justification and religious sanction of judicial killing*
- *the sociology of the condemned and scaffold rituals*
- *changing sensibilities and sensitivities to capital punishment in the 19th c*
- *the change from public to private executions*
- *the role of the abolitionist movement*

#### *The History of Detection and Policing*

- *the police before the police*
- *the origins of policing*
- *the growth of the office of constable*
- *the development of the new police*
- *the rise of professional policing*
- *resistance and reform*
- *the spread of provincial policing*
- *the life, work and welfare of the Victorian 'bobby'*

#### *Crime, Law and Popular Culture*

- *the production of deviance in historical discourse*
- *the construction of cultural and criminal norms*
- *the press and public visibility of crimes and criminals in the 18th and 19th c*
- *representations of violent crime and murder in 19th c*
- *social panic and moral outrage: the role of the Victorian press in creating crime*
- *the origins and development of 'true crime' literature*
- *the historical development of detective fiction*
- *continuities and change in crime reportage over the centuries*

## **Learning Activities**

Lectures  
Seminars  
Workshops  
Self-directed study

## **Notes**

This module reflects the growing interest in the history of crime and criminal justice on the part of both historians and criminologists. The social history of criminal justice is no exception to the massive expansion in historical scholarship that has occurred in the last 40 years. Crime in the UK and the institutions for its control are deeply embedded in, and shaped by, history. This means that any understanding of the contemporary situation requires historical context. All too often, current policy debates occur without proper historical background. As a result, old ideas that have been tried and rejected are reintroduced, or new and sometimes simple ideas and

innovations are ignored. The years between 1750 and 1870 were an especially crucial period in the shaping of modern criminal justice. Urbanization and industrialization gave rise to a host of new social conditions and problems, engendering massive changes in the nature of both crime and its control. Key developments included: the end of capital punishment and the transportation of convicts overseas; the rise of a system of mass incarceration; the beginning of public, uniformed policing; the first mass-media moral panics about violent crime; and the introduction of the adversarial trial process we know today. Although there are as many interpretations of crime history as there are researchers, several areas of study have dominated, namely: the changing nature and perceptions of crime and criminality and how class, gender, religion and economy have all influenced this; the role of law as both ideology and power and the resultant changes to our court systems; the main historical changes with regards to the purposes and practices of punishment, from capital to corporal then carceral; and, finally, the historical development and reform of the police and policing and its varying role in society. In a nutshell, crime history therefore traces the dynamic interplay of politics and law, religion and morality, class and economy, culture and ideas that have all defined crime and criminal justice in our society.